(b) if so, whether any study has been made in the recent past as to how this over-crowding could be eliminated, either by way of adding more jails or by resorting to speedy trials; and

(c) if so, what effective steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) While the position as stated in respect of the Central Jail at Tihar is factually correct, there are several States and Union Territories in which the jails are operating within their capacity.

(b) and (c) No formal study in regard to over-crowding in the Central Jail, Tihar has been made in the recent past. However, the steps taken to reduce over-crowding in the Jail include construction of new jails; setting up of Special Courts to dispose off petty and minor offences; and taking up the matter with the High Court of Delhi for relaxation in surety conditions of those prisoners who have been granted bail but could not be released due to non-furnishing of surety bonds.

Request for UAVs by Andhra Pradesh

125. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had requested for assistance for equipping its police force with Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) to check extremist activity; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal for procurement of an Unmanned Air Vehicle for Naxalites infested areas in the State in June, 1998. It was examined in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and the Border Security Force and not found useful for the purpose for which it was proposed to be acquired. The State Government was accordingly informed in April, 1999.